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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2007
14 APRIL 1954

Memorandum for the Record

TO: Chief, Project

FROM: Francis T. MYLKES

SUBJECT: Comments of Francis T. MYLKES on [] letter
to CALLIGERIS, 9 April 1954

Paragraph 1

[] comments on his visit to Mexico: []
opinion is that the Congress will not come off in the manner in which
it is planned, that the Junta should not send money to it, and that
all of the aid and finances could be used in a much more effective
form in combatting Communism in the actual movement in Guatemala
and against the Communists there.

MYLKES' comments: As of this date no specific information
has been given to [] regarding the naming of a delegation nor
has been told which places those individuals will visit who are
preparing the way for the Congress. He has been advised that CALLIGERIS
is already preparing to send a two-man team throughout Latin America
to arouse interest in the Congress.

Paragraph 2

MYLKES' comments: [] advised me personally that he
was extremely dubious as to [] purported personal contacts out-
side of Mexico and that he felt the sum of money which he was asking
was entirely too high. (See Memorandum (unsigned) (from []
[]) to [] attachment to HULA 492 and HULA 493)

Paragraph 4

(For the memorandums referred to herein, see: HULA-489)

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Paragraph 5

MYLKES' comments: From the very beginning [] has voiced his intense dislike and distrust of any dealings with [] and on various occasions he has pointed out to MYLKES the dangers inherent in any dealings with []. In view of his previous warnings and misgivings about the Group's approaching [] he is now pointing out the results by the reaction in Mexico and the false sense of support to the [] group. He advised me that it would be extremely unwise to continue further dealings or activities with [] since he would then proceed in accordance with what [] has predicted: that is, "to write encouraging and not entirely correct letters regarding the support of the Group to [] and others in Mexico."

The [] incident in Mexico unfortunately appears to be the straw that broke the camel's back, given the fact that [] was not in good physical health when he arrived in Mexico and was probably not too lenient in his opinions. This is evidenced by his statement to me that upon arriving in Mexico he fully intended to write a stinging letter of criticism to CALLIGERIS and to include with this his flat intention to resign from further activities with the Junta.

[] also feels that his prerogative of making on-the-spot decisions in propaganda tasks is negligible and his visit to Mexico has substantiated his opinion. Furthermore the fact that the Group was obviously backing a faction which in his opinion was anti-Junta indicated to him that the Group as well as CALLIGERIS was conducting an operation with which he was not in favor nor which he could prevent. In addition to this, he saw at first hand the results of the Group's collaboration with [].

Therefore it is easy to assume that having been in the field and having seen there the results of policies with which he was not in agreement and over which he had no control, he should be left with an extremely frustrated feeling and would provide him with a very logical reason for wishing to relive himself of the responsibility for such activities.

Paragraph 6

MYLKES' comments: MYLKES noted the amount sent to [] brother in checking over his accounts. Since he had not been previously informed about this brother's activity in the Junta he asked [] in order to explain the expenditure of these funds. [] advised him at that time that it had been an emergency situation and that upon

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his arrival in Mexico he would arrange for the repayment of these funds in full to the Group. Now [] infers that this was a reflection upon his integrity. MYLKES had no intention of making a personal accusation against [] but was interested in knowing the position of [] brother in the Junta in as much as he had received an amount of []

Paragraph 8

MYLKES' Comments: The person who spread these reports is reported by [] to be [] [] advised me that he considered the reports about [] free spending to be true.

Paragraph 9

MYLKES' Comments: I advised [] of the [] arrangement and stated that CALLIGERIS had asked that [] be taken out of the Tegucigalpa area and put some place where he could serve the Junta but at the same time could not cause confusion among the other exiled Guatemalans in that area. [] expressed the same opinions about the [] trip to me as he does in this letter to CALLIGERIS. I then asked him for his recommendation as to what we should do with [] He gave me a very vague answer and said we could "possibly send him to Mexico" or "Don't worry about him. He won't cause any trouble."

[] asked [] to come to LINCOLN but she has not yet been advised when she should come. [] says here that the Group has changed its mind and he is placed in an extremely disagreeable position.

[] is now at a LINCOLN safehouse.

Paragraph 10

MYLKES' Comments: It is difficult for me to understand the complete finality of his decision at this time. During my recent trip to his home (7 - 9 April) he made no mention of a possible resignation from the activities of the Junta and the Group. The only indication that I had was that he did state that while in Mexico he had become so discouraged that at one point he almost wrote a very strong and bitter letter to CALLIGERIS telling him that he was finished with the entire cause.

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In reviewing the reasons which [] offers as cause for his separation from the movement, it seems important to note that his physical condition has brought with it a considerable amount of mental depression which has coincided with his descending position of responsibility in comparison with []. During the past weeks it has become obvious to an intelligent man like [] that his position of responsibility is now illusory for all practical purposes. It must be noted, however, that he has been constantly asked to voice his opinions on propaganda articles and on methods of improving propaganda lines. However, he has been absent from LINCOLN for more than one month and during that time the events have moved in swift fashion, particularly in the formation of political themes and the development of a staff at LINCOLN.

Activities in Mexico have also moved very fast and apparently without order so that at the time [] arrived there he was presented with a scene of wild disorder. The date for the Congress had already been set yet the sponsors of the Congress had not yet considered an agenda nor the delegates to be invited. Undoubtedly this situation, together with the fact that he was in contact with a man whom he considered an inept and amateurish case officer at [], did not increase his enthusiasm for the Congress nor his confidence in the idea of a Congress. The further realization that the Group was supporting [] who was villifying not only CALLIGERIS but other individuals connected with the Junta thoroughly soured him on the entire affair.

Without having discussed the matter with [] it is safe to say that the state of his health has caused him serious concern. In addition his wife appeared extremely concerned and morose about the prospects for the success of the movement, in sharp contrast with her high spirits of December 1953. The influence of his wife cannot be overlooked since [] is known to be an extremely faithful family man.

It seems clear that [] is now quite convinced that the operation has become primarily a military affair and that an individual in his position is not as necessary as it had been originally supposed. Therefore it is hard to imagine that he will suggest a successor to himself.

Additional Comments

[] on approximately 19 April 1954. It is deemed highly necessary to reach some decision regarding the possibilities for a new proposal to [] at that time.

It is also believed necessary to advise CALLIGERIS by cable of the situation prior to his receiving [] letters. His reaction

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would be a necessary preliminary to any representative of the Group's meeting with [] after his discharge from the hospital.

His actual physical condition determined, it is suggested that a more careful and possibly a more favorable review be made of [] position. His mental outlook may be very much improved by favorable results of his medical examination. In any event it is not believed advisable to force him to return to his former position since in the present arrangement it would be impossible to accord him that strength of command which he feels is necessary. This demand cannot be reconciled under the present arrangements which now exist between the Junta and the Group. CALLIGERIS' dominant position is all too clear to [] at this point; []
[] The best that can be hoped is to maintain [] in an advisory capacity []

Francis T. MYLKES

FTM/sgw
17 April 1954
Distribution:
3- WASH
3 - LINC

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11/4/54

Muy estimado don Roberto:

Un fuerte apretón de manos y luego ^{un} abrazo afectuoso para Ud. que tenga buenas noticias de su muy estimada Señora y al escribirle enviarle con mi afectuoso saludo mis votos sinceros por su bienestar. No olvidaré las finezas, delicadas atenciones y consideraciones que Uds. tuvieron para conmigo, y que Ud. sigue teniendo al interesarse por mi salud.

Los quebrantos de mi salud me han obligado a escribir a Pancho en la forma que lo hago. Le ruego leer detenidamente mi carta e informar a El Grupo sobre mi decisión y sobre las razones que me impulsan a tomarla.

Estoy muy agradecido a nuestros amigos, entre los que Ud. figura, y créame que seguiría en mi puesto de lucha si no fuera por mi estado físico, pues comprendo que los demás asuntos podrían arreglarse y orientarse. A todos les quedo muy agradecido, reconocido y obligado.

En cuanto me sea posible iré a verlo para satisfacer todas las obligaciones finales al puesto que he tenido y a las responsabilidades que asumí. El Grupo podrá pensar mientras tanto la forma de continuar nuestros trabajos sin mi intervención.

Hasta muy pronto, y en tanto que tengo el gusto de verlo, le ratifico una vez más, mi amistad, estimación y sincero aprecio,

su afectísimo amigo